(b) the action being taken by Government to formulate uniform policy therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Department of Animal Husbandary and Dairying has received representations from Poultry Farmers Associations/ Federations in which one of the issues raised is treating poultry at par with agriculture. Poultry is a State subject, and it is within the purview of State Governments to consider such request and representations.

Grants to Agricultural Scientists

229. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for maturity of Government's grants given to our agricultural research scientists in the country, it takes 2 to 3 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far, to ensue speedy grants to scientists and see that the benefit of agricultural research findings go to the farmers in the field instead of these remaining confined to laboratories and technical journals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) The Institutes of the Department are allocated Plan funds in the beginning of the financial year and the scientists are provided with research contingencies for conducting research within the same financial year.

The Project proposals received under Agricultural Produce Cess Fund are referred to Subject Experts for their comments. On receiving the comments, the Project Screening Committee/Scientific Panel meetings are held to consider these proposals. The approved project proposals are given financial assistance by releasing funds in the shortest possible time.

The approvals and release of funds are coordinated and monitored by the Subject Matter Divisions and also periodical review is being done at the Secretary's level at Headquarters.

The benefit of agricultural research findings and the technologies developed under these projects reach the farmers through training, extension and frontline demonstration programmes. The Institute Village Linkage Programme is a new innovative approach tried to assess, refine and transfer the technologies to the farmers. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras also play important role in the transfer of technology.